1	2	3
2.	Nadia	17
3.	N 24 Parganas	35
4.	Hugli	4
5.	Bardhaman	9
6.	Haora	2
7.	Malda	4
Chhattisgarh		
1.	Rajnandgaon	6

Cess levied on bottled water

437. DR. M.A.M. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the cess being levied on bottled water and beverages industry at present;

(b) whether a sub-committee appointed by his Ministry have recommended increasing cess on bottled water and beverages industry which use water as a basic raw material;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the other recommendation of the sub-committee?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) Water cess is levied and collected by State Pollution Control Boards for prevention and control of water pollution. Differential rates of cess are charged depending upon the use of water, the rate being higher where pollution load is expected to be more which results in higher cost of pollution abatement. It varies from 2 paise/kiloliter for domestic purposes to 30 paise/ kiloliter for industrial purposes.

(b) to (d) The Sub-Committee on Policy for Water for Industries constituted by the Ministry of Water Resources under the Artificial Recharge of Ground Water Advisory Council has submitted its report to the Ministry.

Utilisation of rain water by IIT

†438. SHRI AJAY SINGH CHAUTALA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether IIT has developed such a technique for water conservation during two years whereby rain water will be utilized successfully in the urban and rural areas of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) to what extent this technique is likely to be useful in solving the problem of water crisis in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (c) Rain water harvesting is a traditional technique for water conservation and has been adopted at different places with necessary variations to suit the requirement since very long time. However, innovative ideas have been suggested from time to time by many organizations including IITs to make it more effective with due consideration to local factors.

Depletion of ground water

439. SHRI K. CHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the ground water table is depleting in all geographical regions in the country;

(b) if so, whether it poses serious water crisis; and

(c) if so, what steps have been taken/propose to take for the preservation of water bodies and to prevent ground water depletion and also to replenish the water table?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A long-term analysis of ground water level by the Central Ground Water Board (CGWB), under the Ministry of Water Resources, during the years 1995-2004, indicates decline in ground water levels in some parts of various States/Union Territories in the country. Depletion of ground water table leads to drying up of existing wells and hence requires deepening of wells thereby leading to increased energy consumption and pumping costs.

(c) 'Water' being a State subject, it is the responsibility of the concerned State Governments to take suitable action for the preservation of water bodies and arresting the declining ground water level in their respective States. However, the steps taken for the preservation of water bodies and to prevent ground water depletion and to replenish the water table by the Central Government in the country are:-

(i) Constitution of 'Artificial Recharge of Ground Water Advisory Council' with the objective to popularize the concept of artificial recharge among various stakeholders.

(ii) Preparation of 'Master Plan for Artificial Recharge to Ground Water' which has identified a total of 4.5 lakh sq.km. area in the country needing artificial recharge of ground water.

(iii) Circulation of Manual/Guide on Artificial Recharge to Ground Water to the States/ Union Territories to enable them to formulate area specific artificial recharge schemes to check the declining trend of ground water levels.